



FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK
February 18, 2018



First Sunday of Lent

Leading Worship: Rev. Annette Taylor
Reader: Judy Killaby
Pianist: Mary Anderson

GATHERING

Moment for Reflection

*A leader is one who knows the way,
goes the way, and shows the way.*
– John C. Maxwell

Welcome and Announcements

Sharing of Peace/Prelude

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Centering Hymn: MV #81 Love Us into Fullness
(all 3 verses) (please remain seated)

Call to Worship

ONE: God invites us to journey
in the way of faithfulness,

ALL: to walk the Lenten road with Christ.

ONE: We journey with confidence,
for the Ground of our Being is with us.

**ALL: Thanks be for the Holy Mystery,
the Essence of Love.**

Opening Hymn: VU #121 Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery
(verses 1,2,4,5) (please stand as you are able)

Worship Schedule

Lenten Movie Series

Feb 25	Lent Two – Lady Bird - with baptism	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Mar 4	Lent Three – The Post	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Mar 11	Lent Four – Three Billboards Outside Ebbing Missouri - Rev. Annette Taylor	
Mar 18	Lent Five – The Shape of Water	- Rev. Annette Taylor

Recent Events

Wednesday, February 7 – Audrey Washington Funeral Service –
Shirley Wilson officiating

Thursday, February 15 – Joseph Pacholko Funeral Service

Moderator's Lent 2018 Message



**May we learn to see
with the eyes of love and
discover ourselves and
our world transformed.**

(Ctrl+Click on picture to see video)

The season of Lent is once again upon us, a time of year when we are invited to make space in our lives for reflection and self-examination, to draw closer to God.

Now, if you're like me, self-examination can quickly turn into self-critique and even self-loathing. I have a tendency when I look closely at myself to zero in on those things that I wish were different.

But I don't believe God wants us to feel bad about ourselves. There's quite enough of that going around already, and there's nothing life-giving about it. Nor do I believe that guilt helps us to feel closer to God—quite the opposite! [download message to read more](#)

Opening Prayer and Jesus' Prayer

Holy Mystery,
we like the idea of walking with Jesus.
It feels good to step alongside
someone we love and admire.
But this Lenten journey demands
more than admiration.
There will be painful segments
that will require endurance
and deep faith.
May our Lenten paths be blessed,
our imaginations ignited and
our hearts opened.
So that, for each one of us, this can be
a journey of questions,
a journey of reflections, and
a journey of discovery.

Adapted from: Susan Ivany, *Gathering Lent/Easter* 2018, page 31.

WORD

Hymn: VU #563 Jesus, You Have Come to the Lakeshore
(verses 1,2 & 3) (please remain seated)

Community Learning Time - Melanie Davis

Hymn: VU #563 Jesus, You Have Come to the Lakeshore
(verse 4) (please remain seated)

Scripture Reading: Mark 8:31-38

ONE: We read this text so that in it we may find wisdom for life.
ALL: May we be open to the Wisdom we understand and hear.

Reflection: Darkest Hour

Choral Offering: Jesus and Me

RESPONSE

Minute for Mission: Children's Rights

Offering

Offertory Hymn: VU #537 Your Work, O God, Needs Many Hands
(verses 1 & 2) (please stand as you are able)

Prayer of Dedication

As this Lenten season begins,
we offer ourselves to you.

Take us, and all we are.

Transform us into people whose compassion
knows no boundaries,
and whose willingness to serve
is guided by your Spirit. Amen.

From: *The Whole People of God* - February 18, 2018 Worship Resources, page 4.

Prayers of the People

Closing Hymn: VU #598 When Pain of the World
(please stand as you are able)

Commissioning & Benediction

Choral Closing: VU #649 Walk with Me *(sing chorus twice)*

Postlude

Lectionary Readings for February 25, 2018

Genesis 9:8-17

Psalm 25:1-10 (VU p.752)

1 Peter 3 :18-22

Mark 1:9-15 *(note : we are switching the readings
for Lent One & Two)*